

Nevertheless, the nominee's affiliations speak for themselves. We are talking about a former State leader of the National Lawyers Guild, a group that claims "policing is the true threat to our collective safety"—"policing is the true threat to our collective safety,"—and a senior leader at the SPLC, which recently defended a staff attorney after he was charged with domestic terrorism for participating in a violent attack on a police training facility in Atlanta.

Disregard for the rule of law should be immediately disqualifying for anyone seeking a lifetime appointment to the Federal bench. After a year and a half of consideration, I hope our colleagues will recognize that this nominee is unfit for judicial service and reject her nomination.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this week is National Police Week, which is a time set aside to honor the service of our Nation's law enforcement officers, to show appreciation for the sacrifices they make to keep our communities safe, and to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Being a police officer is no easy task. An ordinary day for the men and women in blue takes extraordinary character. It takes courage to run toward danger, to take on the unknown. But if you ask a police officer, he or she will usually say: It's just part of the job.

That job is a vital one.

I am profoundly grateful to the brave Americans who step up to protect and serve in my State of South Dakota, in Washington, DC, where the U.S. Capitol Police work to keep us, our staff, and our constituents safe, and around the country.

There is no denying that law enforcement is a dangerous job. Police officers face threats and confront suffering on a daily basis, and many officers bear the visible and invisible wounds of their job. Some officers make the ultimate sacrifice—laying down their lives to protect their fellow citizens.

This year's National Police Week resolution honors the memory of the 443 law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty last year as well as the 32 lost to date this year. And my thoughts and prayers go out to their families and to their fellow officers.

Being a police officer has never been easy. Over the last few years, however, steady criticism and vilification and the enduring "defund the police" move-

ment have made the job a lot harder and taken a noticeable toll on morale.

Police retirements and resignations are up around the country, and there aren't enough applicants to fill available openings. The police department in Asheville, NC, is down 40 percent of its budgeted positions. Cleveland, OH, has its smallest police academy class in 25 years—just nine recruits. And here in Washington, DC, the Metropolitan Police Department has fewer officers than at any time in the last 25 years.

Meanwhile, crime continues to surge around the country. Here in DC, violent crime is up 13 percent from the same time last year, and property crime is up 30 percent over the same period. In Philadelphia, retail and auto theft are surging. As one article recently noted, small business owners are hoping the next mayor will make public safety a top priority. Meanwhile, in Chicago, crime is up 42 percent compared to the same time last year, driven, in part, by a staggering 131-percent increase in motor vehicle theft. And the list goes on.

Surging crime is almost unquestionably being aggravated by the rise of big city prosecutors who seem uninterested in actually prosecuting crimes. Philadelphia's district attorney, for example, actually campaigned on a platform of prosecuting fewer crimes. And then there is the U.S. attorney for Washington, DC, who declined to prosecute two-thirds of arrests last year—two-thirds. DC police data say the average homicide suspect has been arrested 11 times before he or she commits a murder—11 times. Think about that.

Congress has the legal authority to block DC ordinances thanks to Federal legislation rooted in the Constitution which gives Congress legislative jurisdiction over the seat of the U.S. Government. When, in the face of a crime surge, the DC City Council passed a law weakening penalties for a number of crimes, Congress intervened and successfully blocked the bill. And, yesterday, the Senate successfully passed Senator VANCE's legislation to block another DC City Council measure—a measure that would make it more difficult for police officers to do their jobs and could lead to the targeting of individual officers.

Between soft-on-crime policies and prosecutors and antipolice rhetoric—too often amplified or accommodated by members of the Democratic Party—it has been a difficult few years for police officers.

The Biden administration has presented yet another challenge for law enforcement—the crisis at our southern border that has raged for the past 2 years thanks to the President's refusal to take border security seriously. There have been a staggering 5 million attempted illegal crossings of our southern border during the Biden administration, an average of 6,300-some individuals per day, and that doesn't

even count the so-called got-aways, who are individuals the Border Patrol saw but was unable to apprehend. And those numbers got even worse last week as the Biden administration prepared to lift pandemic-era title 42 authorities, which allowed the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to quickly turn back at least some individuals at the border.

Our Border Patrol agents and our Nation's border communities are overwhelmed. Border Patrol agents in San Diego, last week, arrested an Afghan national on the FBI's terror watch list, underscoring that the immigration crisis directly affects our national security and public safety.

Cross-border illegal activity is making life difficult for law enforcement agencies around the country. I have talked to sheriffs in South Dakota—about as far from our southern border as you can get—who are dealing with fentanyl that has been trafficked across the border from Mexico.

Last year, Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead estimated that 90 percent of fentanyl and meth in our State comes through Mexico, and that trafficking is undoubtedly being facilitated by the chaos at our southern border.

Despite the many challenges they face, particularly over the past few years, law enforcement officials and officers continue working around the clock to keep our communities and our country safe.

This week and every week, we need to honor their service and remember their sacrifices. And this week and every week, we need to do the work of ensuring that our laws and policies support our Nation's law enforcement officers and their jobs, that our men and women in blue have the tools and resources they need to enforce the law, and that misguided policies don't endanger our officers and stand in the way of public safety.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The Senator from North Carolina.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, it is my honor to rise today to speak on behalf of the citizens of the great State of North Carolina.

I wouldn't be here today without some very special people: the love of my life, Amy Kate; our three kids, Joshua, Kathryn, and Macy; and my wonderful parents, Richard and Sylvia Budd.

I wouldn't be who I am or where I am today without all of your love, your support, and your strength.

I also want to thank the dedicated members of my team, both my official staff and campaign staff, who have helped me along this journey.

As this voyage unfolded, I was always grateful for my fellow Senators, whose presence was a constant source of encouragement and advice. I want to thank Senator RICHARD BURR and Senator THOM TILLIS for their service to this institution and to our State.

I was also inspired by the Senators who are no longer with us, whose lasting imprints are signatures in these desks. As I open this desk, I see the signature of the late, great Senator Jesse Helms. He was one of our State's most legendary leaders, and I can only hope to be as fine a Senator for North Carolina as he was.

I also look to Senator James Broyhill, whom we lost just this year. He was a great friend to our family for decades, and his commitment to public service is one that I am going to try to emulate for as long as I hold this office.

As someone who was born and raised in North Carolina, I want you to know that it is a part of me. It is in my bones.

But you really don't know your State until you have visited every corner of it. Our State has 100 counties, and during our campaign, I visited each and every one of those counties, some of them multiple times, and not just the ones with the high populations or the ones with the big TV markets. It was that 100-county tour that helped me fall deeper in love with my home State, and I am going to be a better Senator for having done it.

But of all North Carolina's counties, one is near and dear to my heart, and that is Davie County. I was told a while back that I was the first U.S. Senator to come from Davie County. I owe a lot to the place that I call home.

It is the values of small North Carolina counties like mine that are my values too, and those aren't just another set of policy issues. North Carolina values are about how somebody goes about their daily life. It is about faith. It is about loyalty to our family and to your friends. It is about being a man of your word. It is about being honest. It is about being reliable. It is about working hard. And it is about serving others.

Our State's motto is "esse quam videri," or, in English, "to be rather than to seem." To put it another way, we tend to walk the walk more than talk the talk, and that is the sort of spirit that I want to endeavor with me during my time here in office.

In the relatively short time here in the Senate, I have been to 11 countries. I have met with ambassadors and with foreign leaders, and I have been able to visit and thank American troops stationed overseas.

One of the big lessons I learned is this: For as much importance as we place on our international standing—and, believe me, we should—what is most important is that we don't lose our way here at home. We need to be an America that is worth defending, and everything we do here should be about creating a strong Nation. But we should not seek strength without purpose, and our purpose is clearly laid out in our founding documents. And it has been taught the hard way, through nearly 250 years of lived history, witnessing what works and what doesn't.

Winston Churchill once famously observed that "Americans will always do the right thing, only after they have tried everything else."

In the last few years it seems like, well, we tried everything else—a lot of bad ideas, and there are some big things that aren't working.

We live in a culture that, unfortunately, extenuates all the ways each and every one of us is different, instead of all the things we have in common. And it is these differences that are used by some to drive us apart, drawing lines based on race, gender, or bank accounts.

In recent years, far too many members of America's next generation are being indoctrinated with a sense of victimhood and despair instead of being encouraged with vision and with hope. That indoctrination has real-world consequences, and we have seen it borne out in disturbing national trends.

Less than 40 percent of our country says they are extremely proud to be an American. The rate of churchgoing and a belief in God now sits at historic lows. One in 10 Americans suffers from depression, and depression among young adults is particularly acute. One CDC study revealed that 42 percent of high school students felt so sad or hopeless in the last few weeks that they could not go about their daily business.

Among young adults, substance abuse is at an alltime high. Rates of suicide have increased, and more than one in five high school students has seriously considered attempting suicide. These numbers should shock our national conscience, and it should serve as a wake-up call for change.

Despite these discouraging statistics, we don't have to reinvent the wheel to know how to get back on the right track. Instead of teaching the next generation of Americans to wallow in all the things that their country has done wrong, we need to be celebrating. We need to be learning and building on all the things that we have done right. Simply put, we need to teach our kids to love our country, not to hate it; to have a spirit of gratitude and not one of disdain.

Great nations succeed when their citizens not only have a focus on what makes them great but also when we collectively keep our eyes on what creates prosperity and human flourishing. But when we give our government too much power, the less freedom each individual has over their own life. Less freedom means you have less money and less opportunity to achieve your God-given destiny.

When the government stops us from responsibly producing energy, for instance, and then attempts to dictate our consumption habits, it makes life harder and more difficult for hard-working citizens, and it stifles our Nation's strength.

You know, the Apostle Paul, when he wrote to young Timothy, warned him

to watch out for the love of money, for it is the root of all sorts of evil. But in this town, the root of all sorts of evil seems to be modern and monetary theory, the supposition that the national debt doesn't matter and that government spending should be the driving force behind the economy instead of individuals and private businesses.

But the problem with this is that a bigger government with endless spending creates economic stagnation. It convinces people to accept financial mediocrity, instead of incentivizing innovative and creative members of society to take risks, to fail, and to get back up and try again for a better tomorrow.

We need to be creating an economy that rewards risk-taking and allows people to be working toward their American dream. But it is government that too often stands in the way of that dream.

It was the trillions of pandemic spending that caused the inflation that now eats away at the buying power of each and every consumer, and it was the limitless spending of the last quarter century that has created a Federal budget so out of whack that the basic goal of balancing our country's checkbook, well, it is politically toxic to consider.

Looking to government as our economic savior is simply not the solution. Capitalism, open markets, a free and moral people—that is the formula for success, success that our country saw not too long ago. And we could surely recreate it if we have the right leadership that lightens the regulatory burden on America's job creators. The stronger that we are here at home, the more leadership that we can exert on the world stage. That is what is missing today, a strong and a confident America.

The U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in August of 2021 was nothing short of a national tragedy and disgrace. Not only did it result in the devastating loss of 13 servicemembers and the abandonment of countless citizens, but it put American weakness on full display. We were seen by our enemy as hapless, shortsighted, and not willing to change course when the facts on the ground called for a change.

In speaking with allies and international leaders, I heard over and over again that it was the Afghanistan debacle that caused our allies to wonder if they can even count on us anymore. They wonder if, when the going gets tough, we would be more likely to cut and run than stand by their side, as they have stood with us. That undercuts America's standing in the world.

As we see the results of weakness across the globe, a Russian dictator is blatantly invading its neighbor or unleashing unspeakable chaos and suffering on innocent civilians, or we see China, led by a brutal communist government, growing more aggressive not only toward Taiwan but blatantly launching spy crafts over the U.S.

mainland, buying up critical infrastructure inside the United States and stealing the intellectual property of U.S. citizens. Iran and North Korea are spinning up their centrifuges, cracking down on their own people, and making threats to the security of their respective regions. At our own southern border right now, we have a historic humanitarian and national security crisis. But instead of pursuing what used to be a nonpartisan imperative to secure the border, the current administration is retreating from their responsibility to protect and defend this country.

All of this chaos is the result of America being a diminished country, all too willing to cede the stage and to let others lead. That is not the way that the world will find peace and security. Peace is achieved through American strength, and it is American weakness, instead, that provokes evil. Our country must return to the principles of clarity and purpose, a willingness to act when the situation calls for it, and the strength to follow through when we face obstacles.

As a country, we can have anything that we want, as long as we act with wisdom and conviction. And, ladies and gentlemen, we know what works. We have done it before, and you can bet that we can do it again. Despite all the things that are broken right now, none of them can overshadow the uniquely American ability to overcome a challenge.

Each and every day, I am filled with a tremendous sense of gratitude that I live in the United States of America, and I believe that millions of people out there, they feel the exact same way.

In the final analysis, it is our shores that welcome 1 million legal immigrants every year. It is our country that is viewed by millions as a place where they can shed an old life and they can start again.

People vote with their feet. In the United States of America, we are still the last and best beacon of hope on this planet. All we have to do is keep it that way.

At the end of the day, we must seek to be a nation that empowers every citizen, ensures human flourishing, and preserves freedom for each and every individual to pursue their American dream.

I am going to leave you with this. My No. 1 goal during my time in the U.S. Senate is to create a strong nation, to build strong families, and to be of service to others; to make other people's lives better, to do just what I said that I was going to do.

That is how I have lived throughout my life, and that is the kind of Senator I want to be.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I want to just speak briefly on Senator BUDD and how thrilled I am to have him as a colleague in the U.S. Senate.

I think, if you heard his speech, he mentioned our State motto, “esse quam videri”: “to be rather than to seem.”

What you saw here was a rational, reasonable, respectful Member of the Senate. I observed that for years when he was in Congress. TED BUDD and I met back in 2013. I watched him serve the State of North Carolina before he was elected to Congress. I admired the way he carried himself when he was in the House. I have been thrilled to see how well he has hit the ground running here in the Senate.

But I will tell you, much like my campaigns—they are not necessarily easy in North Carolina, and, truthfully, TED was running in a primary. I had two friends running in a primary. The way he conducted himself there was also very rational, very reasonable, very respectful. That is why I think he is a U.S. Senator today.

That is the second reason. The primary reason he is a U.S. Senator today relates to a lady named Amy Kate, her son, and two daughters.

Now, if it wasn't in violation of the rules, I would look up in the Gallery and thank Amy Kate and her family directly, but that is a violation of the rules, Amy Kate, so I won't do that.

But I just want to let everybody know in North Carolina, you have picked a great partner for me to have in the U.S. Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I just wanted to say to our new colleague: Welcome to the Senate, and an outstanding opening speech. I look forward to serving with you for many years to come.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 175, Jeremy C. Daniel, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Charles E. Schumer, Raphael G. Warnock, Mazie Hirono, Jeanne Shaheen, Elizabeth Warren, Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Mark Kelly, Tammy Duckworth, Chris Van Hollen, Amy Klobuchar, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, John Fetterman, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jeremy C. Daniel, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: The Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 127 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin	Hirono	Rounds
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Booker	Kennedy	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Sullivan
Collins	McConnell	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Tillis
Duckworth	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Fetterman	Murray	Warnock
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Warren
Graham	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Peters	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Rosen	Young

NAYS—39

Barrasso	Daines	Moran
Blackburn	Ernst	Paul
Boozman	Fischer	Ricketts
Braun	Grassley	Risch
Britt	Hagerty	Romney
Budd	Hawley	Rubio
Capito	Hoeben	Schmitt
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Lummis	Vance
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Coons	Menendez
Feinstein	Mullin

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 39.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from New Jersey.

(The remarks of Mr. BOOKER pertaining to the introduction of S. 1658 are printed in today's RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

Mr. BOOKER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I want to express how deeply concerned I am about the senior Senator from Alabama's blockade of senior military promotions, which threatens to leave hundreds of nonpolitical, routine military positions unfilled, all because he wants to repeal the Department of Defense's policy that allows servicemembers to be able to seek and travel for reproductive care.

This is a move that risks our national security in order to rob our servicemembers of their ability to make their own family planning decisions, servicemembers who, frankly, are sacrificing so much to keep our country safe.